(b) and (c) Various steps like replacement of passenger trains by Mixed trains, introduction of 'One Engine Only' system, economy in staff, curbing ticketless travel closure of unremunerative stations and halts or converting them into contractor operated halts etc. have been taken to reduce the losses.

(d) Closure of 40 uneconomic branch lines recommended by the Railway Reforms Committee is being done in a phased manner in consultation with the concerned State Governments. So far, 14 such lines have been closed/dismantled.

संसद सदस्यों के लिये रेलगाड़ियों में आरक्षण कोटा

1838. **श्री अजीत जोगी :**

श्री छोटूभाई पटेल :

क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पहले प्रत्यक रेलगाड़ी में संसद सदस्यों के लिये आरक्षण का कोटा होता था ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार उक्त आरक्षण प्रणाली को पुन आरंभ करने का विचार रखती है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के० सी० लेंका : (क) दिल्ली क्षेत्र से चलने वाली/गुजरने वाली अधिकांश गाड़ियों में संसद सदस्यों के लिए आरक्षण कोटा बराबर उपलब्ध है ।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Committee to review the passenger fare and freight rates

1839. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set-up a Committee recently to review the passenger fare and freight rates as reported in the Economic Times dated 21st April, 1993;

(b) if so, whether Government have received the Report if so, what are the recommendations made by it; and

(c) what decision Government propose to take or have taken so far implement the recommendations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS: (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) The Government have constituted Railway Fare and Freight Committee with effect from 24.10.1991.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise, since the report is yet to be received.

Railway line to Connect Thakazhi-Thirnvala-Punallor

1840. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proopsal to construct a link Railway line to connect Thakazhi - Thirnvalla - Punaloor is under Government's consideration;

(b) whether Government propose to study the viability of this proposal in view of the tremendous commercial importance of the Central Kerala and the possibility of the above mentioned line to link the hilly and coastal regions of Kerala and its commercial and passenger utility; and